



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



December 1996

| Location | Date | Time Local/ Standard | Path Length (Miles) | Path Width (Yards) | Number of Persons Killed | Number of Persons Injured | Estimated Damage Property | Estimated Damage Crops | Character of Storm |
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
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WISCONSIN, Southeast

WIZ051-056>058-
062>064-067>068

Fond Du Lac - Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Iowa - Dane - Jefferson - Lafayette - Green

23 0000CST 0 0 300K Ice Storm
2200CST

Freezing rain and freezing drizzle left a deposit of ice up 3/8 thick in a swath from Iowa and Lafayette counties northwest to the southern part of Fond du Lac county. The worst ice accumulations occurred around Madison to around Baraboo. There were at least 100 vehicle accidents reported. The West Beltline around Madison was closed for almost two hours prior to daybreak due to a major multi-vehicle accident. Madison area hospitals reported that 8 people were briefly hospitalized due to falling on icy pavements (these are indirectly-related injuries), and an additional 9 people were treated for injuries in vehicle accidents.

The ice accumulation during this storm on a radio tower on top of the Baraboo Hills started a chain of events that ultimately lead to this tower collapsing at 1830 CST on December 31st. Local technicians noted that the tower was shrouded in fog and/or low clouds from the 23rd through the 31st. Shattered pieces of the ice had a thickness up to 1.25 inches! An "off the cuff" estimate pegged the tower ice load at 35 tons!

WIZ046>047-056

Marquette - Green Lake - Sauk

23 1100CST 0 0 Heavy Snow
24 0300CST

Heavy wet snow accumulated to 6 to 7 inches in depth across the northern parts of Marquette and Green Lake counties, as well as over the northwest part of Sauk county. Some blowing and drifting of snow occurred at the end of the heavy snow period. The snow was preceded by a slight glazing of freezing rain.

WIZ067>070-072

Lafayette - Green - Rock - Walworth - Kenosha

25 1800CST 0 0 Heavy Snow
26 0600CST

Low pressure moving west to east across central Illinois deposited 6 to 6.5 inches of dry snow across the extreme southern parts of Wisconsin's counties along the Illinois border. The 6.5 inch accumulation was reported in southwestern Lafayette county. Lesser amounts of 3 to 5 inches fell in the Madison to Milwaukee area.